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UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 1

1 CONGRESS STREET, SUITE 1100
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02114-2023

August 4, 2000

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable John G. Rowland
Governor of Connecticut
Executive Chambers
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rowland:

Thank you for your recent letter of July 21, 2000, forwarding Connecticut's recommendations on eight-hour ozone designations. Making recommendations on geographic boundaries for ozone is a critical step towards providing the residents in Connecticut with an important tool to make informed decisions about air pollution levels in their cities and towns. We intend to review your recommendations and work with your Department of Environmental Protection in determining final boundaries for Connecticut's nonattainment areas.

Even though EPA's new ozone standard is pending before the courts, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, in its 1999 decision, recognized that the designation process would continue. EPA is obligated under the Clean Air Act and the 1998 Transportation Equity Act to complete this process, which includes reviewing your recommendations and making ours later this year. As a result, EPA is moving forward with the designation process. We are proceeding with this action to protect public health, while appealing other parts of the May 14, 1999, D.C. Circuit decision to the Supreme Court. This will ensure that people living in nonattainment areas will have clean air as quickly as possible once the ongoing litigation is completed. Together, we can move forward to bring cleaner, healthier air to the people in New England.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or Richard Burkhardt at (617) 918-1664 to discuss this further.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mindy S. Lubber", is written over a rectangular box.

Mindy S. Lubber
Regional Administrator

cc: Arthur J. Rocque, Jr., DEP
Carmine DiBattista, DEP

